

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
402 West Washington Street
IGCS, Room E334
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

2001 Annual Jail Report

The Indiana Dept of Correction inspects 92 jails in 91 counties. The department is not tasked by the legislature to inspect county or city lock-ups. Ohio County has no jail, and house their inmates in Dearborn County. Marion County has both the county operated jail and a privately operated jail. Below are some of the observations contained in the annual jail report compiled by the department, based on a “snapshot” of each jail on the day of inspection.

There are 14064 jail beds in Indiana, and 13153 inmates. The average county has 2.7 beds, and 2.4 inmates, per 1000 population. The total number of beds rose dramatically in Indiana with the opening of new jails in St. Joseph and Jennings County, and additions to jails in Lake, Johnson and Vigo County since the previous annual report.

The average jail in Indiana has 153.3 beds and 143.0 inmates. On average, 88% of jail inmates are male, and 11% are female. The remaining 1% is youth incarcerated as adults, having been tried, or awaiting trial, as an adult.

The average jail was built or renovated in 1986, and is 15 years old. A total of 47 jails have been built, renovated or expanded since 1990. Only 10 jails built prior to 1974 remain in operation in Indiana. The Switzerland County jail has been in continuous operation since 1853, but is limited to 72-hour holding.

Jails reported being crowded 34.5% of the time since the previous jail inspection, with crowding occurring primarily on weekends. Thirty-nine (39) of the 92 jails were at or over their rated bed capacity in 2001 on the day of inspection. Six jails are currently operating under a cap, four of which were capped by consent decree or memorandum of agreement, and two are capped by county commissioners.

The 117 youth incarcerated as adults reported (116 males, 1 female) remains well below the high of 155 reported two years ago, but slightly higher than the 111 reported in 2000. The number of females incarcerated in jails continues to rise, and by percentage (11%) represent the fastest growing segment of jail population in Indiana.

Of the 13153 inmates reported in county jails during inspection in 2001, three-fourths were awaiting trial, and only 3128 (24%) were serving sentences in the jails. Of the total number sentenced, 423 inmates were assigned to a work release program being operated from the jail. Forty-seven jails report operating a work release program from the jail. At least two others operate a “stand alone” work release unit outside the jail, and another twelve programs are operated by community corrections, for a total of 61 counties that report having a work release program.

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There were a total of 1303 inmates reported sentenced to the Indiana Department of Corrections, of which 866 were being held in county jails for the Department. The remaining 437 were reported awaiting transfer into the Department, with priority given to those counties that are overcrowded or operating under a population cap. There was an additional 348 inmates being held on a contractual basis at the privately operated jail in Indianapolis. Thirty-eight counties hold low-risk, non-sex offender, inmates for the Department on a verbal agreement. The top ten counties with the highest number of beds per 1000 population all hold inmates for the Department in exchange for the \$35 per diem provided for by the Legislature in the state budget.

Eleven deaths by natural causes were reported in 2001. To date, three inmates have reportedly been revived in county jails using an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), with the most recent occurring in the Allen County Jail. Three suicides were reported in 2001. This number remains low as a result of increased emphasis on suicide screening and prevention since a high of 9 jail suicides were reported in 1998. In 2000, the Indiana Sheriffs' Association, Indiana Department of Correction, and the National Institute of Correction co-hosted a suicide screening and prevention workshop in Indiana, and the number of jail suicides reported annually has remained down since.

Although any loss of life within a jail is tragic, sheriffs are very good about offering crisis intervention counseling to both staff and inmates after a jail suicide. Each suicide is investigated, usually by the Indiana State Police upon request by the sheriff.

A total of 18 inmates were reported as having walked away from work details outside a jail (inmate workers), failing to return from work release, or escape from custody. Only two of the 18 escaped from the secure portion of a jail in 2001, and both were recaptured. The U.S. Marshals' offices continue to support jails in recapture efforts via their "Failed Chance Fugitive Apprehension Team" program.

A total of twelve jails report holding inmates for the U.S. Marshal in Indiana on a contractual basis, and another two have held federal inmates on occasion. Contracts with the U.S. Marshal are limited to counties with, or adjacent to, a federal courthouse.

Eighty-three jails now report having a GED program available at the jail, and another 61 have completed arrangements for the provisions of special education services as needed. Seventy-eight jails reported having some form of substance abuse counseling services available, but in some cases no more than Alcoholics or Narcotics Anonymous programs. Eighty jails are nonsmoking.

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The Department of Correction, Indiana Sheriffs' Association, and the National Institute of Correction (via grants) continue to provide jointly sponsored training for county sheriffs and jails in Indiana. The Jails Division of the National Institute of Correction is a U.S. Department of Justice agency assigned to the Bureau of Prisons.

In addition to the suicide screening and prevention workshop previously mentioned, training in conducting a jail staffing analysis and planning for new institutions (PONI) have been conducted in Indiana over the past two years. This training is not always limited to sheriffs and jail officials. The PONI workshop in Jasper, Indiana in March, 2002 was attended by a broad spectrum of county officials, to include sheriffs, county commissioners, county councilors, attorneys, a judge, county auditors, and community corrections directors from 9 counties.

The Indiana jail standards are being updated, and we are currently in the fourth of five phases. The core of the Indiana Jail Standards Committee is comprised of six sheriffs representing sparsely, moderately, and densely populated counties (Allen, Dekalb, Greene, Vanderburgh, Vigo, and Warren County). One of the most significant changes proposed will require all jails to implement an objective-based inmate classification program within three years. Also proposed is a requirement for a sheriff and the county executive body to enter into a written staffing agreement prior to adding onto, or constructing a new jail. Staffing new or expanded jails remain one of the major problems encountered in Indiana, with Johnson, Vigo, and Lake County all experiencing the problem of providing adequate staffing upon opening a new or expanded facility.

Several changes will occur in 2002. Emphasis will be placed on compliance with compulsory education requirements for youth incarcerated as adults, through the efforts of Mr. Gaylon Nettles, IDOE; Mr. Fran Quigley, representing the Appleseed Foundation; and Ms. Lori Elliott, Indiana Juvenile Justice Task Force.

Another major change occurring in 2002 is a revision of the Indiana Code that will take effect July 1, 2002. This revision changes the inspection requirements for jails to require each county jail be inspected at least once annually, as opposed to the current semiannual requirement. This will permit jails experiencing no significant life, health, safety, or security issues to be inspected only once annually, and jails that need assistance will be inspected even more frequently than the current semiannual requirement. In some cases, the Department plans to inspect some jails quarterly. With the more frequent inspections, greater emphasis will be placed on providing much needed technical assistance.

The revision of the Indiana Code will also provide an alternative to litigation to resolve significant life, health, safety, or security concerns. This alternative will permit the Commissioner, Indiana Department of Correction, to recommend a county convene a

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grand jury to examine a county jail if significant conditions persist greater than six months after written notification of a problem. The examination of a jail by a grand jury is certainly not new in Indiana, and is provided for in the Indiana Code dating back to 1909. Several counties, to include Grant, St. Joseph and Marion County, have continued to use grand juries, in addition to the DOC inspection process, to examine their jails. However, most counties stopped using this process during the period subsequent to the DOC being tasked by the legislature in the 1950's to inspect county jails. This July 1, 2002 change will combine both the older grand jury process with the newer jail inspection process, and will provide citizen input into the recommendations made to county executive and fiscal bodies.

Paul Downing
Director, Detention Services

Complete 2001 Jail Statistics